

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 22 AUG 2006

WIPO

PCT

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing

(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2006/308251

International filing date (day/month/year)

13.04.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)

14.04.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

INV. H04N13/00

Applicant

KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Date of completion of
this opinion

See form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Wahba, A

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4597



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2006/308251

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2006/308251

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-16
	No: Claims	1,17
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-17
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1 : US 2004/135886 A1 (BAKER HENRY H [US] ET AL) 15 July 2004 (2004-07-15)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

- 2.1 The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claim 1 is not clear.

Especially the term "perpendicular" on line 7 of claim 1 does not make technical sense and is furthermore not corresponding to the figures in the application (present application: fig.1). There the viewpoints (present application: fig.1a, 1) are spaced in a direction **parallel** to the single reference projection plane (present application: fig.1a, 2). See also figure 1b. In the following the term "perpendicular" on line 7 of claim 1 is interpreted as meaning parallel.

- 2.2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A method for producing a multi-viewpoint Image (D1: par.4) for three-dimensional image display which acquires a multi-viewpoint Image used for three-dimensional image display for providing parallax in a horizontal direction to cause a viewer to recognize three-dimensional image, comprising:

providing a plurality of viewpoints to be spaced at equal (D1: fig.4) intervals in direction **perpendicular** a single reference projection plane including target viewpoints serving as reference are spaced at constant intervals in a first direction parallel to the reference projection plane (D1: par.33 and 44);

providing a plurality of individual target viewpoints which are respectively different from the target viewpoints serving as reference and serve as feet of a perpendicular

to the plurality a viewpoints, corresponding to the respective viewpoint, on a projection plane which is a plane including the reference projection plane (implicit in D1);

while the shapes and the areas of the individual projection planes which are regions in the projection planes of images acquired from the plurality of viewpoints are kept constant (implicit in D1),

making determination such that the shapes and the sizes of the individual projection planes are included in the reference projection plane in overlapping regions of the individual projection planes acquired from two viewpoints positioned at the outermost positions of the plurality of viewpoints (D1: fig.4); and

clipping only regions of the reference projection plane from the individual projection planes acquired from the respective viewpoints to form a multi-viewpoint image for three-dimensional image display (implicit in D1).

It should be noted that the method steps of claim 1 do not differ from the method steps of any standard multiview multiple camera arrangement with parallel optical axes of the cameras.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 17

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 17 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Because claim 17 refers to a computer executable program including the method steps of claim 1 all the objections of §2 are also valid for claim 17.

4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-16

Dependent claims 2-16 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/JP2006/308251

respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

The dependent claims refer to slight changes in the method of claim 1. They come within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. Consequently, the additional features of claim 2-16 also lacks an inventive step.